

Canadians with physical disabilities do not fully enjoy the UN-protected basic right to "full and effective participation and inclusion in society." Indeed, many Canadians with physical disabilities report disrupted levels of participation in several important aspects of community life such as employment, sports and active recreation, and simply being able to move about their communities independently and with dignity (i.e., community mobility). As a result, not only do people with physical disabilities have lower rates of community participation than their able-bodied counterparts, their quality of participation (e.g., enjoyment, satisfaction) is also poorer. The goal of our 7-year program of research and knowledge mobilization (KM) is to enhance the quantity and quality of community participation among Canadians living with physical disabilities by developing, mobilizing and evaluating theory- and evidence-based strategies to enhance community participation.

Our research and KM program will focus on three community participation domains that people with physical disabilities consistently identify as being the most restrictive, as well as the domains in which they most desire greater participation: employment, mobility, and sports. In addition to addressing the number (i.e., quantity) of people who participate, our efforts will also focus on understanding and enhancing the psychosocial quality of participation (e.g., feelings of meaningful engagement, autonomy, responsibility, and social connectedness).

Specific research and KM projects are designed around fundamental, evidence-based principles of KM and will address the following themes: (1) describing and understanding participation, its barriers and facilitators in the disability community, (2) Identifying effective KM methods, (3) Creating interventions/practices to enhance participation, and (4) Implementing & evaluating the interventions/practices. These thematic objectives will be addressed for each community participation domain addressed in this proposal: Employment, Mobility, & Sport. Some projects will be conducted in a single domain, while several projects cut across domains, integrating researchers from different fields of study.

Research and KM activities will be carried out by an international multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral partnership that synergizes the research expertise of over 20 junior- mid- and senior-career academics, with the front-line experience of 20 community-based disability-related service groups, organizations, foundations and a private sector partner with mandates to advocate for and assist Canadians with disabilities to achieve full community participation. Community and academic partners will work together to address community-driven research questions, co-creating new knowledge that can be turned into products, tools and services, that partners can take ownership and pride in using and disseminating.

Our program of ongoing collaboration and mutual learning will foster innovative research, training, and new knowledge that will be rapidly and effectively disseminated to key stakeholders. Indeed, our partnership is poised to generate social science research that will have a profound impact on community participation among the nearly 3 million Canadians living with physical disabilities. The social and economic significance of these activities cannot be overstated; when people with physical disabilities are full participants in their communities, all Canadians benefit from a stronger, more competitive society in which everyone can use their talents, skills and resources. Confidence in our partnership is recognized by our university and community partners who have pledged over \$3,250,000 to our activities.